

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00648 271159Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----003810 271205Z /23
O 271027Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6058

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0648

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MASS, PGOV, SO, US
SUBJ: SOMALI ASSURANCES ON BORDERS

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 0647; B) STATE 077673

1. REFTEL A SETS FORTH THE AMBASSADOR'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SPECIAL EMISSARY'S (MOOSE) MISSION. IN THAT MESSAGE THE AMBASSADOR UNDERScoreD HIS CONCLUSION THAT PRESIDENT SIAD IS NOT VERY INTERESTED IN THE NON-LETHAL PACKAGE, AND ADDED THAT ACCEPTABILITY EVEN WITH AN ADDED INDUCEMENT WAS PROBABLY MINIMAL. THIS RESPONSE IS FRAMED WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S GENERAL RESERVATIONS IN MIND, BUT RECOGNIZES THE USG MAY OPT FOR THE NON-LETHAL PACKAGE WITH THE ANTI-TANK SWEETENER.

2. TEXT A REFLECTS A SOUND LOGICAL APPROACH TO A DELICATE PROBLEM. IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, AN APPROACH WHICH WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL WITH SIAD. THE SOMALI LEADER'S RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL EMISSARY WAS PURPOSEFULLY AMBIGUOUS. IT WAS NOT AN OVERSIGHT, IN SPITE OF THE COLORFUL CLOSING, AND WILL NOT BE CORRECTED IN THE STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER WHICH TEXT A PROPOSES. SOME OF THE POINTS IN TEXT A WOULD SERVE AS EXCELLENT TALKING POINTS IN THE NEXT DISCUSSION OF CONSTRAINTS AND GUARANTEES, BUT SHOULD NOT BE
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SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO OBTAIN A CORRECTED BASIC LETTER.

3. TEXT B OFFERS MORE PROMISE. IN ADDITION TO BEING SENSITIVE ABOUT AMENDING HIS RESPONSE TO MR. MOOSE, SIAD WILL WANT TO RELATE ANY FURTHER UNDERTAKING OF CONSTRAINT ON HIS PART DIRECTLY TO A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE USG TO SUPPLY LETHAL ITEMS THAT HE PERCEIVES HE NEEDS.

TEXT B DOES THIS MORE CLEARLY THAN TEXT A APPEARS TO. IN OUR VIEW A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE COULD ALSO SERVE AS PART OF THE CHARTER FOR AN ARMS RELATIONSHIP.

4. AT THE RISK OF BEING REPETITIVE THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO PARAPHRASE AN EARLIER POINT MADE THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 23 IN MOGADISCIO 0641: HOW THE USG ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE THE PRECISION OF THE GSDR COMMITMENT IS NOT IMPORTANT SO LONG AS SIAD REGARDS THE OUTCOME AS SUPPORTING HIS OBJECTIVE. IN SHORT, IF THE USG DECIDES TO PROVIDE SIAD WITH SOME OF THE HARDWARE HE WANTS, HE WILL SIGN THE DOCUMENT WE WANT.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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